THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

KC
KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 52

YOSHIKI TANAKA
HIROMU ARAKAWA

ET PWEE!!

BAHMAN!!

BAHMAN, PLEASE, OPEN YOUR EYES!!

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 52: The Sun Sets on the Capital

YOU MUST NOT, YOUR HIGHNESS GADHEVI!

I'LL FIGHT HIM MYSELF...

SH-SHER SENANI? WHAT FOOLISH-NESS!

YOU MUST NOT DIE!

ALL IS NOT LOST, AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN ALIVE, YOUR HIGHNESS!

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN DEFEAT THAT PARSIAN KNIGHT ?!

IT WOULD NOT BE STRANGE IF YOU WERE TO BE SLAIN NOW, ON THIS VERY SPOT!!

YOU DEFIED HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S DECREE, AND REVOLTED AGAINST THE GODS' JUDGMENT. YOUR HIGHNESS IS A CRIMINAL NOW!

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT FORGIVEN, YOU COULD ENTER A TEMPLE, AND ATONE FOR YOUR SINS ON THAT PATH.

BUT IF YOU SHEATHS YOUR SWORD NOW, BOTH HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND THE GODS WOULD SURELY PARDON YOU.

I, MAHENDRA... ...WILL ACCOMPANY YOU HIGHNESS ANYWHERE.

I BEG OF YOU, PUT AWAY YOUR SWORD.

I BEG OF YOU ...

HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI NO LONGER HAS THE WILL TO OPPOSE THIS JUDGMENT!

YOU HAVE SEEN IT!

PARSIAN KNIGHT, PLEASE, SHEATHE YOUR SWORD AS WELL!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!! THAT SPEAR WAS AIMED AT HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN!!

I, TOO, ASK THAT YOU SPARE HIM.

PARSIAN KNIGHT.

I CAN ONLY APPEAL TO YOUR CHIVALRY AS A KNIGHT ...!

YES... I CAN MAKE NO EXCUSE FOR THAT...

YOU ARE A TRAITOR AFTER ALL.

WHAT ?

BITE ブスッ

YOU WAG YOUR TAIL FOR PARS...?

TSK...

SHNK

BE-COME A MONK ?

ATONE FOR MY SINS?

YOU WANT ME TO BOW MY HEAD TO A MERE PARSIAN KNIGHT?

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, MAHENDRA ?!

THNK

I AM A KING!! I AM THE KING!!

THE GODS ARE WRONG !!!

...?!

UNGH ...!

STOP !!

NOW YOU FLEE, CRIMINAL ?!

ALL THOSE WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM ARE HIS ACCOM-PLICES TO HIS GREAT CRIMES!!

GADHEVI BETRAYED BOTH THE WILL OF THE GODS AND ROYAL DECREE!!

DISCARD YOUR WEAPONS AND SWEAR LOYALTY TO THE LAW AND TO JUSTICE!!

MRMR

MRMR

MRMR

ガシャ CLANG

ガシャ CLANG

ガラ RATTLE

ガラ RATTLE

ASH

ダッ

SIR MAHEN-DRA !!

SIR MAHEN-DRA !!

SIR MAHEN-DRA !!

THAT DOES NOT MATTER ...!!

I COULD NOT GIVE YOU ANY REWARD...

...I AM SORRY, JASWANT.

THIS IS A FITTING END FOR ONE SO FOOLISH AS I...

I CHOSE THE WRONG LORD... THE WRONG GROOM FOR MY DAUGHTER...

DO NOT WEEP FOR ME, JASWANT.

LIKE THIS ... ...MY... SON...

BUT I AM A HAPPY MAN...

WERE YOU MY FATHER?

SIR MA-HEN-DRA !!!

PLEASE... TELL ME...

...YOUR HIGH-NESS ARSLAN ...

BE-COME ... ...A GOOD ... ...SHAH ...

YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD TELL ME EVERYTHING ONCE THIS BATTLE ENDED, DID YOU NOT?!!

BAHMAN, DO NOT DIE!!

.....WHO AM I.....?

WHO IN THE GODS' NAMES AM I.....?

DO NOT LEAVE !!

PLEASE TELL ME...

TELL ME, BAHMAN !!

I AM GADHEVI, THE LEGITIMATE HEIR OF KARIKALA II...

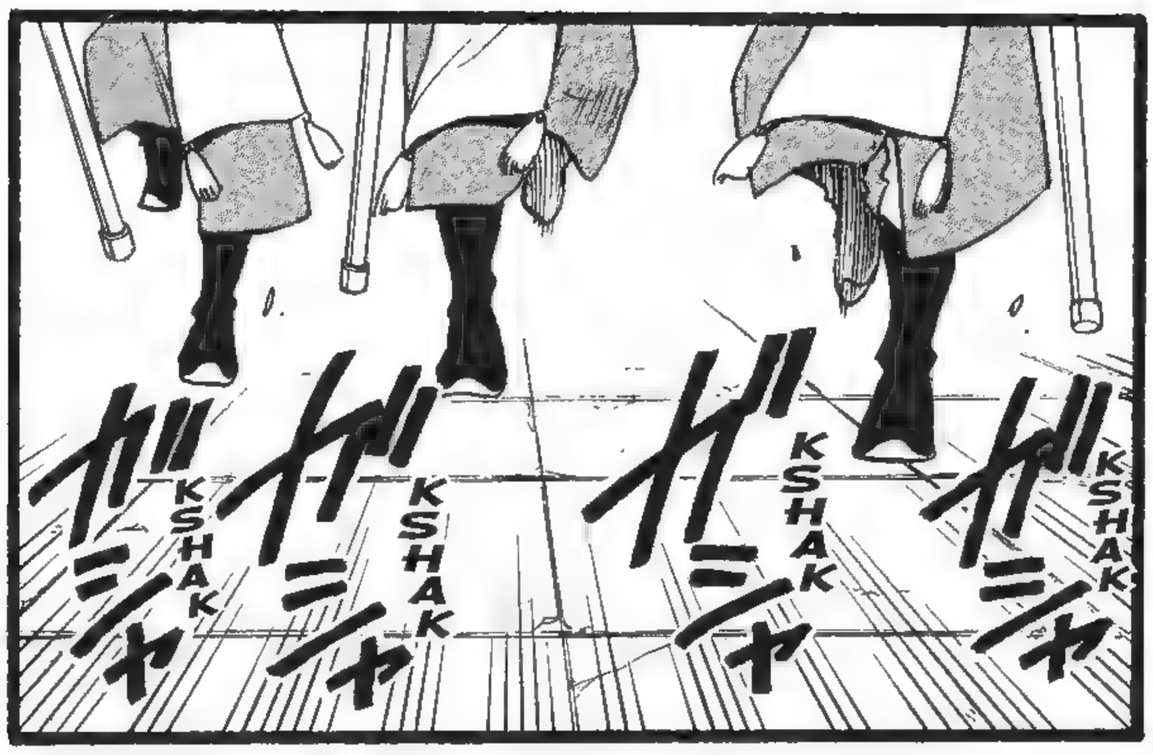
I AM A KING !!!

I AM KING...

I WILL BE THE KING OF SIND-HURA...

WHO IS MY FATHER ...?

WHO AM I...?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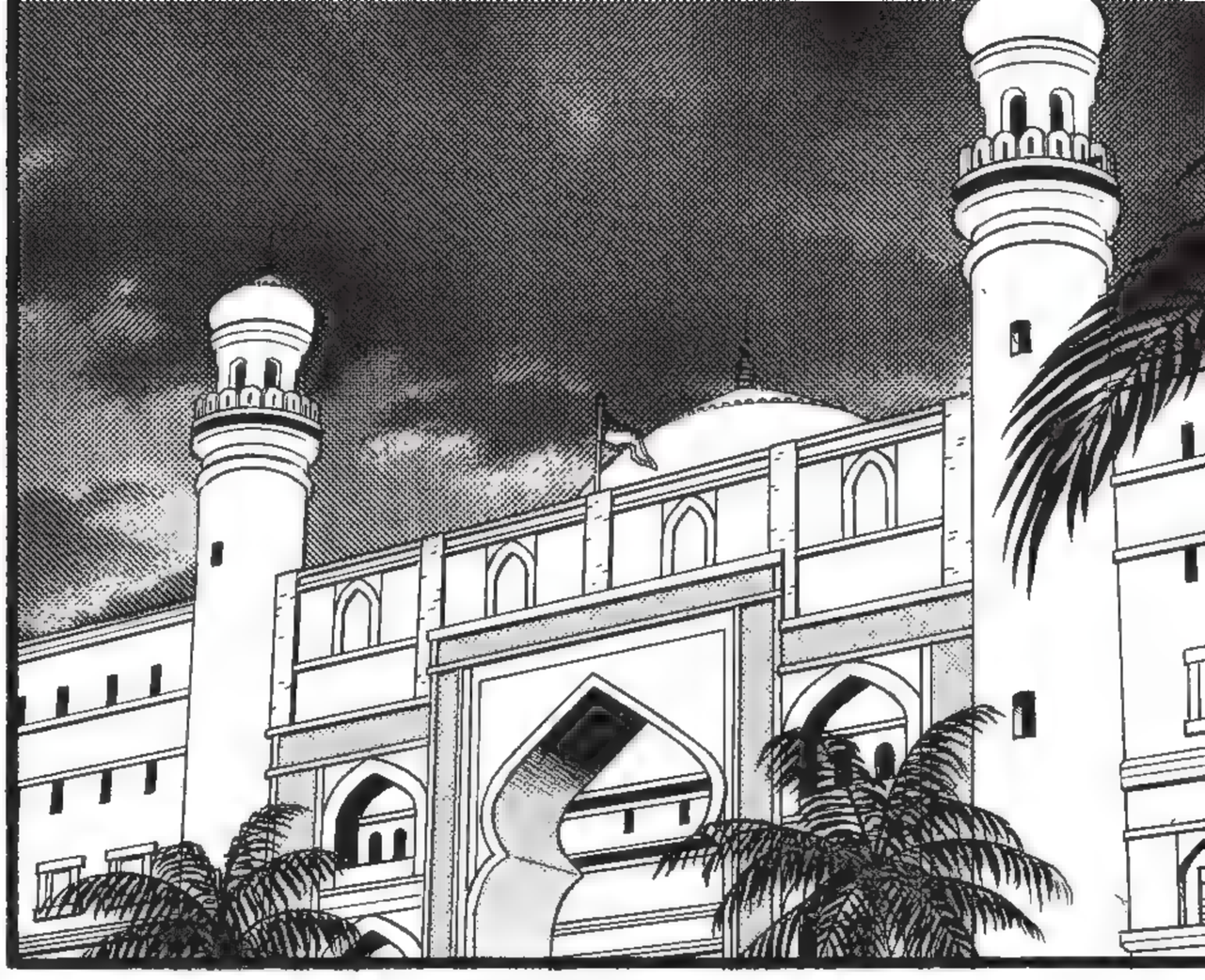
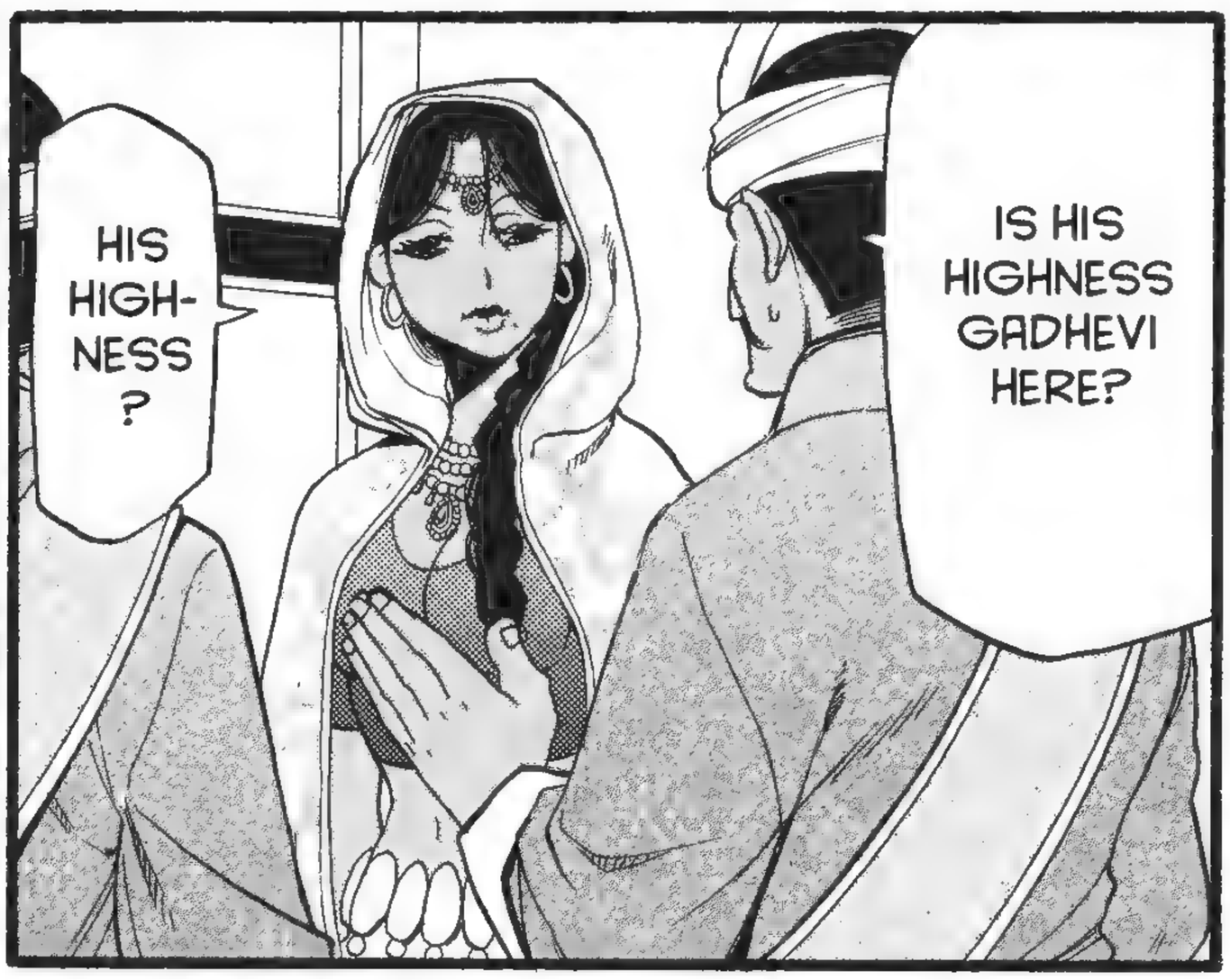


LADY SALIMA!
IT'S SO NOISY.
WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMO-TION ?

THE ADIKA-LANIA ENDED, AND...
WELL ...


HIS HIGH-NESS ?
IS HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI HERE?

HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI DISAP-PEARED FROM THE ARENA DURING THE CONFUSION...

WE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE HERE...

HIS HIGHNESS RAJENDRA WAS CHOSEN AS THE NEXT KING.

PLEASE, TELL ME MORE OVER THERE.

NO.

HE HAS NOT COME HERE.

SLAM

HIS HIGHNESS RAJEN-DRA'S GOING TO BE KING IS HE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE BAHADUR THE BRUTE LOST.

AGREED! IF WE'RE TALKING BEHAVIOR, HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI BEHAVED ATROCIOUSLY AFTER THE DUEL.

I LIKE HIS HIGHNESS RAJENDRA!

YES, THAT WAS A SHAMEFUL DISPLAY ...

HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI SHOULD BE THE SUCCES-SOR!

HIS BEHAVIOR LACKS NOBILITY!

A BOY BORN FROM A SLAVE, BECOMING KING! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

WHO KNOWS ?

SOME ARE SAYING THAT HE FLED TO THE BORDERLANDS WITH HIS SUBORDINATES.

COME TO THINK OF IT, DID THEY EVER FIND HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI?

WELL, THE PRIME CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED THE THRONE IS A TRAITOR NOW.

WHAT?! PERHAPS IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS HEART...

OH, RIGHT! THEY'RE SAYING HIS MAJESTY BECAME BEDRIDDEN AGAIN!

AND JUST WHEN HIS MAJESTY THE KING BECAME WELL ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS SICKBED—IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR HEAD HURT.

RAJENDRA, MY SON, I ASK YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR PURSUIT OF GADHEVI.

WHAT'S MORE, HE MURDERED MAHENDRA, OUR PRIME MINISTER AND HIS OWN FATHER-IN-LAW.

EVEN IF I FORGAVE HIM, THE LAW AND JUSTICE WILL NOT.

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL, FATHER.

BUT HE DEFIED THE JUDGMENT OF THE GODS, AND YOUR WILL, AS WELL.

RAJEN-
DRA
...

OH,
VERY WELL!
I WILL
NOT TAKE
GADHEVI'S
LIFE!

I WILL REUNIFY
OUR KINGDOM
AND BRING
ALL THE PEOPLE
TOGETHER AS
ONE.

GOOD.

IF
THOSE WHO
SUPPORTED
HIM SWEAR
THEIR
ALLEGIANCE
TO ME, I WILL
FORGIVE
THEIR CRIMES,
TOO.

GOOD.

BUT ONLY
IF GADHEVI
RESPONDS TO
OUR SUMMONS
AND TURNS
HIMSELF
IN WILLFULLY!

IF HE
DOES
THAT,
THEN
I WILL
SPARE
HIS LIFE
AND
SEND
HIM TO A
TEMPLE.

A
BRUSH
...

...AND A EULOGY LAMENTING THE DEATH OF MAHENDRA.

...INSTRUCTIONS FOR GADHEVI TO BE PARDONED FOR HIS CRIMES, SHOULD HE WILLINGLY RETURN...

THE KINGDOM OF SINDHURA'S KING KARIKALA II WROTE A DECREE TO TRANSFER HIS THRONE TO RAJENDRA...

AND SO, AS THOUGH HE HAD OBTAINED PEACE OF MIND AND USED UP ALL HIS STRENGTH, THE KING BREATHED HIS LAST—

THE PARSIAN ARMY, TOO, PERFORMED A FUNERAL FOR THE DEAD.

ARSLAN WENT TO RAJENDRA, AND RECEIVED A SINGLE HILL A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE CAPITAL, URAIYUR.

ITS WEST SLOPE BECAME A CEMETERY IN WHICH WERE INTERRED BAHMAN AND SOME TWO HUNDRED SOLDIERS WHO HAD DIED IN BATTLE.

WEST...

...IS THE DIRECTION FACING PARS, THE HOMELAND OF THE FALLEN.

TANG カン TANG カン TANG カン

DARYUN TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THE UNIT OF 10,000 CAVALRYMEN THAT HAD BEEN LED BY MARZBĀN BAHMAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE SUBORDINATES WHO HAD EACH LED 1,000 OF THOSE CAVALRYMEN UNDER BAHMAN.

TANG カン TANG カン TANG カン

LORD BAHMAN'S ABILITY WAS THAT BRILLIANT.

ALL OF THOSE FIERCE BATTLES ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND OUR ARMY'S CASUALTIES NUMBERED NOT EVEN 200.

YES.

YOU GAVE HIS HIGHNESS SOME SORT OF EXPLANATION LIKE THAT.

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW, AT GUJARAT FORTRESS, I SAID THAT I THINK OUT ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT STRATEGIES, AS FAR AS I CAN?

NO, I STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.

YOUR STRAT-EGIES, TOO.

"MY STRATEGY WILL CRUMBLE APART FROM THE BOTTOM UP!"

SO I FEARED!

HUH! SO YOU WEREN'T WORRIED AS MY FRIEND, BUT AS A TACTICIAN?!

I DIDN'T CALCULATE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING YOU IN THE LEAST.

AT THE ADIKALANIA, I WAS SCARED STIFF.

WHAT IS IT?

LORD DAR-YUN. MAY WE HAVE A MOMENT?

HA HA HA! HAVE I GONE AND BEEN CAST ASIDE?

YOU TWISTED FELLOW!

I CAN'T LEAVE HIS HIGHNESS IN YOUR HANDS!

THAT STINGY PRINCE, SEND-ING A GIFT?!

WELL, I'LL BE...

IT CAN'T BE, TRUE!

HIS HIGH-NESS RAJEN-DRA...

RATHER, HIS MAJESTY THE KING SENDS YOU THIS GIFT AS THANKS FOR YOUR VICTORY IN THE DUEL.

BECAUSE YOU MUST BE INCONVENIENCED BY YOUR CAPE BURNING UP DURING THE FIGHT, HIS MAJESTY INSISTS THAT YOU HAVE THIS!

SO HIS HIGH-NESS'S ANXIETY WILL REMAIN UNRE-SOLVED ...

WELL, LORD BAHMAN DIED ON US WITHOUT REVEALING THE CONTENTS OF THE SECRET LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM MY UNCLE VAHRIZ.

...SHER SENANI!

I DO HOPE YOU WON'T CAST ME AWAY...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

PF F...

I DON'T NEED IT...

I THINK IT WOULD BE MORE INTERESTING IF HIS HIGH-NESS ARSLAN ***DOESN'T*** HAVE THE BLOOD OF THE SO-CALLED RIGHTFUL ROYAL LINE IN HIS VEINS.

IN THIS VERY KINGDOM, A BOY BORN TO A SLAVE BECAME KING!

IS ONE'S BLOOD-LINE TRULY WORTH WORRYING ABOUT?

WHAT DID THE ROYAL FAMILY EVER DO FOR ME?

I DO WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO LIFT UP HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN, BUT I DON'T INTEND ON SWEARING MY LOYALTY TO THE PARSIAN ROYAL FAMILY.

EVEN IF HIS HIGHNESS DOESN'T HAVE THE BLOOD OF THE PARSIAN ROYAL FAMILY, I, TOO, BELIEVE THAT IF HE GOVERNS WELL AND HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, THEN HE IS A FINE KING.

I SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, GIEVE.

FOR THAT MATTER, I GET TO EXPERIENCE A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS AT HIS HIGHNESS' SIDE. I'M ENJOYING MYSELF.

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

...

JAS-

WANT.

OUT.

GIIII

CREAK

DID HIS HIGHNESS GADHEVI RETURN TO THE PALACE?

NO. NOT YET.

YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

...

THEN WHY HAVE I BEEN...

YOU HAVE PRINCE ARSLAN TO THANK FOR THAT.

WELL... I DO NOT KNOW.

JASWANT, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW?

WITH SIR MAHENDRA GONE, I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.

HE LIKELY WOULDN'T WANT ME AS A SUBORDINATE, EITHER. I WAS SIR MAHENDRA'S SPY.

I'M OF NO MIND TO SERVE HIS HIGH-NESS RAJEN-DRA.

THEN WILL YOU NOT COME WITH ME TO PARS?

THEN YOU ARE THE SAME AS I.

I'M A NOBODY WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO HIS OWN FATHER IS... I COULD NEVER...

AH... I MEAN THAT QUITE LITERALLY...

OH, NO... I'M NOT WORTHY! YOU CAN'T BE SURE OF WHERE I CAME FROM!

I THOUGHT I WAS MY FATHER AND MOTHER'S SON, BUT IT WOULD SEEM I AM NOT.

I DO NOT KNOW WHOSE CHILD I AM, EITHER.

IT COULD BE THAT I AM NOT SOMEONE SO IMPORTANT AS A PARSIAN PRINCE.

ALTHOUGH ONLY THOSE CLOSEST TO HIS HIGHNESS WHO CAN BE TRUSTED KNOW OF IT.

WE DO.

...DO YOU SERVE HIM KNOWING THIS?

I'M SURE THIS WILL PUT YOU TO A LOT OF TROUBLE, SO I CANNOT FORCE YOU, BUT WILL YOU NOT CONSIDER IT?

ALL RIGHT.

TAKE YOUR TIME THINKING IT OVER.

I NEED TO SORT OUT MY MIND...

.....I..... CANNOT GIVE YOU AN ANSWER. NOT YET.

HE MADE ME WASTE ALL THAT EFFORT!

AND AFTER I SENT OUT PROCLAMATIONS ALL OVER THE KINGDOM THAT IF HE TURNS HIMSELF IN, I WON'T KILL HIM...

WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND GADHEVI ?!

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

YOUR MAJESTY !!

WHAT?! DON'T BRING ME ANY MORE WORK!!

THERE'S FATHER'S FUNERAL, CLEANING UP GADHEVI'S BACKERS, APPOINTING OFFICIALS, STARTING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER...

HOW ARE YOU, YOUR MAJESTY, OUR NEW KING?

TAP

NO, MAJESTY, IT'S...

TAP TAP TAP

DID SHE BRING ME POISON ?!

WHAT ?!

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

LADY SALIMA SAYS SHE BRINGS A GIFT FOR YOUR MAJESTY...

TAP TAP TAP

I'VE BROUGHT YOU A GIFT.

To be continued...